



By John Harris Jr.
VILLAGER Spots
Columnist

To: Kirby Smart, University of Georgia football coach

Kirby,
Don't take this the wrong way but stop pocket watching your defending national champions.

How about taking some of your freshly minted, not to mention outrageous, 10-year, \$112.5 million contract and buy another

Not So Smart, Kirby

McMansion instead of hatin' on your players?

Tsk, tsk.
You couldn't help putting foot squarely in mouth, could you?

When appearing recently at the Texas High School Coaches Association convention right down I-35 in San Antonio and addressing a new world in which your freshmen football players can rake in more NIL dough than fellow upperclassmen, you shamelessly stated, "I'm all for taking care of guys that have been part of the program and start and play. It's just that it's a reverse system right now, where the bottom

coming in are getting rewarded more than maybe the top going out.

"Is that actually going to make him more successful in life? Because I promise you, if you handed me \$10K a month my freshman year in college, I probably wouldn't be where I am today. I believe that."

Believe this.
You're the highest-paid coach in college football. You didn't throw a pass or make a tackle on the field to earn your bread. Yet you're worried about the chump change (comparatively speak-

ing) your players can earn as a result of recent changes in the sport.

At 46, you could easily coach another 20-25 years. It's hypocritical for you to complain about college athletes getting "free" money without earning it, considering they're always one play away from a career-ending injury in practice and games.

Your callous commentary is a direct shot at some of the players you so badly need to justify your mega salary.

It reminds me of the argument presented by critics of reparations for Black Americans who can trace their lineage



(Left) Kirby Smart, Georgia: Paid \$10.25 million for 2022 season. (Center) Nick Saban, Alabama: Paid \$9.75 million for 2022 season. (Right) Dabo Swinney, Clemson: Paid \$8.37 million for 2022 season.

back to slavery and the 1870 census: As in: "How do we know that some people won't squander the money they have coming to them?" That's beside the point. It's their money to do whatever. Cut the check.

Unless you give back some of the money

from your new contract - more than 10 times the annual salary of your school's president! - you shouldn't question how much money your players earn.

After all, it will be the last real money some of them get.

All the best,
John Harris

FORMER FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA ANNOUNCES RELEASE DATE FOR LATEST BOOK

by Cedric 'BIG CED' Thornton | BLACK ENTERPRISE

(BE) - The former first lady Michelle Obama appeared on Good Morning America to let the viewers know that she will release "The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Certain Times" on November 15, 2022.

The book will be published globally by Penguin Random House.

According to Penguin Random House, the book is scheduled to be published simultaneously in 14 different languages and 27 countries worldwide, with more languages and territories to be announced.

This is the follow-up to her first book, the best-selling *Becoming*. The book was named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, USA Today's #1 Book of the Year, an Oprah Book Club selection, and an NAACP Image Award winner.

"I've learned it's okay to recognize that self-worth comes wrapped in vulnerability and that what we share as humans on this earth is the impulse to strive for better, always and no matter what,"



Obama writes in *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Certain Times* intro.

"We become bolder in brightness. If you know your light, you know yourself. You know your own story in an honest way. In my experience, this type of self-knowledge builds confidence, which in turn breeds calmness and an ability to maintain perspective, which leads, finally, to being able to connect meaningfully with others—and this to me is the bedrock of all things. One light feeds another. One strong family lends strength to more. One engaged community can ignite those around it. This is the power of the light we carry."

In this latest book, "Obama gives readers a series of enlightening stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power."

The book has a suggested list price of \$32.50 in the U.S. and \$42.00 in Canada. The digital edition will be \$16.99 in the U.S. and \$18.99 in Canada. You can gain information at www.michelleobamabooks.com.

Justice Department Probe Homes In On Trump's Efforts To Stay In Power, Overturn Vote: Report

By Nick Visser | HUFFPOST

(HUFFPOST) - The Department of Justice is investigating former President Donald Trump and his efforts to remain in office after he lost the 2020 election, with prosecutors asking witnesses detailed questions about his behavior and meetings he held to overturn the election, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

The report, citing people familiar with the DOJ's inquiry, said prosecutors have asked detailed questions about meetings held by Trump in December 2020 and January 2021, after his November election loss, as well as what instruction he gave his attorneys as they worked on a plan to use slates of fake electors rather than those won by Joe Biden.

They have also asked about Trump's efforts to pressure then-Vice President Mike Pence to refuse to certify the results of the 2020 race. Pence didn't go along with that plan, which relied heavily on the vice president making false claims that there were issues with the electoral votes that states had certified for



Two top aides to former Vice President Mike Pence spoke to a grand jury convened by the Justice Department in recent days. VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biden.

The report reflects the growing scope of the agency's investigation into the events leading up to and during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Two top aides to former Vice President Mike Pence have spoken to a grand jury convened by the Justice Department in recent days. Marc Short, who served for nearly two years as

Pence's chief of staff, said Monday he spoke to the body after being issued a subpoena. He was a key witness to the final days of the Trump administration and was in the Oval Office on Jan. 4, 2021, when Trump had lawyer John Eastman try to persuade Pence to delay the certification of the Electoral College vote. The grand jury also spoke to Short's deputy, Greg Jacob.

The two are the highest-ranking members of the Trump administration to cooperate in the investigation so far.

The Post added that Justice Department prosecutors have reviewed the phone records of senior Trump aides, including those of the president's former chief of staff, Mark Meadows. The detail builds on a spate of sub-

poenas issued in recent weeks, including reports that federal agents had seized Eastman's electronic devices and conducted a search at the home of former Justice Department official Jeffrey Clark.

The DOJ probe could pose renewed legal peril for Trump, as the agency has the power to levy criminal charges against him or others in his orbit. The ongoing investigation

by the House select committee into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack — a separate effort — does not have the power to charge anyone with wrongdoing but has used a series of public hearings to show the extent of the White House's role in inciting the riot and Trump's failure to stop it.

No former U.S. president has been charged with a crime, despite sweeping investigations into misbehavior.

Attorney General Merrick Garland, however, said Tuesday that the Justice Department planned to prosecute anyone "criminally responsible for interfering with the peaceful transfer of power from one administration to another."

"We intend to hold everyone, anyone who was criminally responsible for the events surrounding Jan. 6, for any attempt to interfere with the lawful transfer of power from one administration to another, accountable," Garland told NBC News. "That's what we do. We don't pay any attention to other issues with respect to that."